

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR WITEK: When and how is the convention convened? Must the application of the requisite number of states be identical? Which if you'll read the language of the Conference of States, it does want all their language identical in their...in our resolutions. So they're going through the same processes as...as would go through to call a constitutional convention. So I don't know why they're so surprised that there is some confusion here, because they're going through the same processes to do a Conference of the States as the states would do to convene a constitutional convention, except for one difference, they're not petitioning Congress for a constitutional convention. That's the only difference that I can see so far. So I guess it wouldn't hurt to put in some language in the resolution that's saying that in their action plan they won't petition Congress, and in their reforms they won't amend the Constitution.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, after we get through massaging this resolution and changes are made, which I think can be made, I likely will wind up supporting the resolution, but I'm not certain. I'm not just adamantly opposed to the conference. It can serve a very valuable purpose if, for no other reason than exposing members who ordinarily come to these meetings from various Legislatures to others who don't ordinarily attend legislative conferences. So they can see there are different points of view, and some of those people are willing to attend if the issue is sufficiently serious. I say again, I do not believe that this conference will be converted into a constitutional convention. There are too many antagonisms, there will be too many individual agendas and large states and small states will not want to see eye to eye on various things; poor states like Nebraska, which boast about being conservative and the Governor talking about getting the government off its back, yet look how much money comes to this state in its highway programs from the federal government, without which this would be a series of bicycle and horse trails throughout Nebraska. They get large amounts of money from other programs, sponsored and created by the federal government which would not otherwise be available. So it is one thing to talk in theory and in the abstract about equalizing the status between